(b) the names of the States in which the farmers have been benefited by this plan; and

(c) the yard-sticks fixed for the farmers who have been brought under this plan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is a demand driven scheme. The farmers covered during 2004-05 and 1 st half of the current year *(i.e.* up to 31st October, 2005) are 162.18 lakh and 110.92 lakh respectively.

(b) Under NAIS, farmers of following States have been benefited;

Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Tripura, Orissa, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan, Haryana, Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(c) All farmers growing notified crops inthe notified areas are eligible for coverage under NAIS.

MSP for millets

t1830. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to revive the support price of millet;

(b) whether Government propose to make a fool-proof system through Food Corporation of India for the purchase of barley at the support price; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Government has announced the Price Policy for Kharif and Rabi Crops of 2005-06 Season. The Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for Millets namely Bajra, Jowar and Ragi fixed by the Government are as follows:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Crop	Rs. per quintal
Bajra	525
Jowar	525
Ragi	525

(b) and (c) These Millets are procured by the State Governments to extend the benefits of MSP to the farmers as and when need arises. The State Governments retain the quantity required for the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and the balance stock is disposed of by the FCI on "as is where is basis" by open auction/tender and the difference between the economic cost and disposal price is paid as subsidy to the concerned State Governments.

Reviewing the utility of National Commission on farmers

1831. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the National Commission on farmers;

(b) the structure of the Commission;

(c) whether any original ideas have been offered by the Commission since its inception;

(d) whether Government have assessed the utility of this body; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the need of this body?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The National Commission on Farmers was set up in February, 2004 to examine and recommend policies, programmes and measures on various issues confronting India Farmers and to suggest appropriate inverventions for improving the economic viability and sustainabiiity of diversified agriculture including horticulture, livestock, dairy and fisheries.

The Commission comprises of a Chairman, two full time Members, four part-time Members and a Member Secretary.

(c) The Commission has so far submitted two Interim Reports making